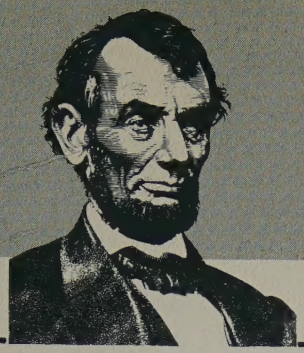


Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

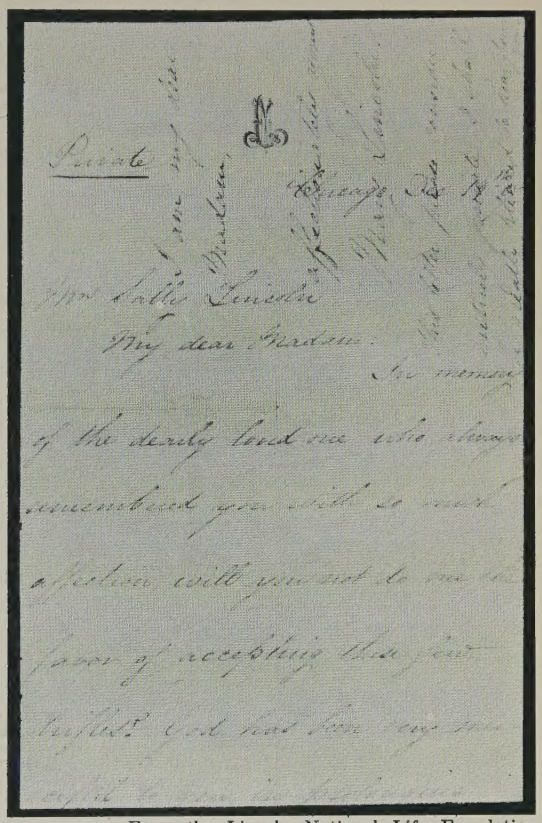
Number 1486 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA December, 1961

EXPRESSIONS OF SENTIMENT FOUND IN FOUNDATION MANUSCRIPTS

The real value of Lincoln manuscripts, or any other manuscripts for that matter, largely depends on their content. The Lincoln letters and documents that reveal history-in-the-making, that portray the human side of the principals involved, or that contain expressions of sentiment are eagerly sought after by collectors. The Foundation has several manuscripts of a sentimental nature in its collection, not only written by the president but by Mrs. Lincoln as well as letters received by members of the family.

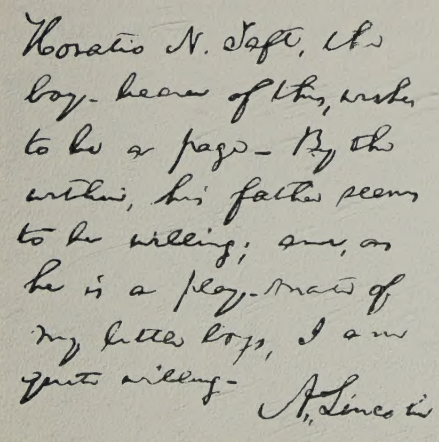
Two of these documents reveal Lincoln's affinity for little boys, which was probably due to the fact that he had four sons of his own. Occasionally during his presidency he had to deal with little boys and his brief memoranda on the subject reveal expressions of sentiment.

On July 4, 1861, Judge Horatio Nelson Taft wrote Lincoln from Washington, D. C., that "Should the president feel disposed to favor the request of the bearer, my son (who seems determined to assert his independence) his kindness would be greatly appreciated." Judge Taft had reference to his son's desire to become a page. The son, Horatio N. Taft was known to the Lincoln children as "Bud." He was the playmate of the two younger Lincoln children, Willie and Tad. The older brother of "Bud" was Charles Sabin Taft, one of the first doctors to reach Lincoln after he was assassinated in Ford's Theatre.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

References to this letter may be found in *Lincoln Lore*, No. 526, May 8, 1939 "Three Lincoln Mothers."



Horatio N. Taft, the boy-bearer of this, wishes to be a page—By the within, his father seems to be willing; and as he is a play-mate of my little boys, I am quite willing— A. Lincoln

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

On "Bud's" application for page (letter written by his father) the president wrote:

"Horatio N. Taft, the boy-bearer of this, wishes to be a page—By the within, his father seems to be willing; and as he is a play-mate of my little boys, I am quite willing.

A. Lincoln"

Another document in the Foundation collection of considerable sentimental interest is a short note written by Lincoln in ink as follows:

"I shall be glad if Capt. Goodman can & will find a suitable position for this fine little boy.

A. Lincoln

December 13, 1864"

Perhaps an endorsement on a letter written by Miss C. N. of Washington County, Pennsylvania, dated April 5, 1864 best reveals Lincoln's compassion for a girl and boy in serious trouble. The soldier's initials were A. D. G., a private of Company —— of the 140 Regiment P. Vol. The said regiment was the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 2nd Army Corps, Army of the Potomac.

In October 1863 private A. D. G. had a chance to visit his home to vote in the election. Miss C. N. wrote President Lincoln that "Here allow me to state that he did not forget our Curtin (A. G. Curtin, candidate for re-election as governor of Pennsylvania)." Needless to state they (private A. D. G. and Miss C. .....) did not forget their "Courtin" and "an unlawful family" would be the result

unless "you (President Lincoln) do not take mercy upon us and grant him a leave of absence in order to ratify past events."

Without hesitation Lincoln wrote on the back of his distressed correspondent's letter:

"Hon. Sec. of War
Send him to her by all means
A. Lincoln
April 14, 1864"

At the bottom of the folded letter are these significant words "furlough granted file AY".

One of the finest letters in the Foundation's manuscript files is that written by Mary Lincoln to Mrs. Sally Lincoln (Sara Bush Johnston Lincoln) from Chicago, Illinois, on December 19th, 1867.

The letter follows:

"Chicago, Dec. 19th, 67

"Mrs. Sally Lincoln
My dear Madam:

"In memory of the dearly loved one, who always remembered you with so much affection, will you not do me the favor of accepting these few trifles? God has been very merciful to you, in prolonging your life and I trust your health has also been preserved—In my great agony of mind I cannot trust myself to write about, what so entirely fills my thoughts, my darling husband: knowing how well you loved him also, is a grateful satisfaction to me. Believe me, dear Madam, if I can ever be of any service to you, in *any respect*, I am entirely in your service. My husband a few weeks before his death mentioned to me, that he intended that summer, paying proper respect to his father's grave, by a head and foot stone, with his name age and so forth and I propose very soon carrying out his intentions. It was not from want of affection for his father, as you are well aware that it was not done, but his time was so greatly occupied always. I will be pleased to learn whether this package was received by you—Perhaps you know that our youngest boy, is named for your husband, Thomas Lincoln, this child, the idol of his father—I am blessed in both of my sons, they are very good and noble. The eldest is growing very much like his own dear father. I am a deeply afflicted woman and hope you will pray for me—

"I am, my dear
Madam,
"Affectionately yours,
"Mary Lincoln.

"This letter please consider entirely private—I shall be greatly pleased to hear from you."

That Mrs. Lincoln sent the "few trifles" is attested by her second letter to Mrs. Sally Lincoln, Coles Co., Charleston, Illinois, on December 20, 1867:

"Enclosed is the Express receipt——also the ten dollars which please accept for the making of the dress etc. An answer is requested whether the box, money etc. has been receivd & oblig.

Mrs. Lincoln"

This original letter of December 20, 1867, was once a part of the Oliver R. Barrett collection. Its present location is unknown. These two letters give a new insight into the relationship between Lincoln's family and Mrs. Lincoln, a relationship which many have believed to have been unfriendly and strained.

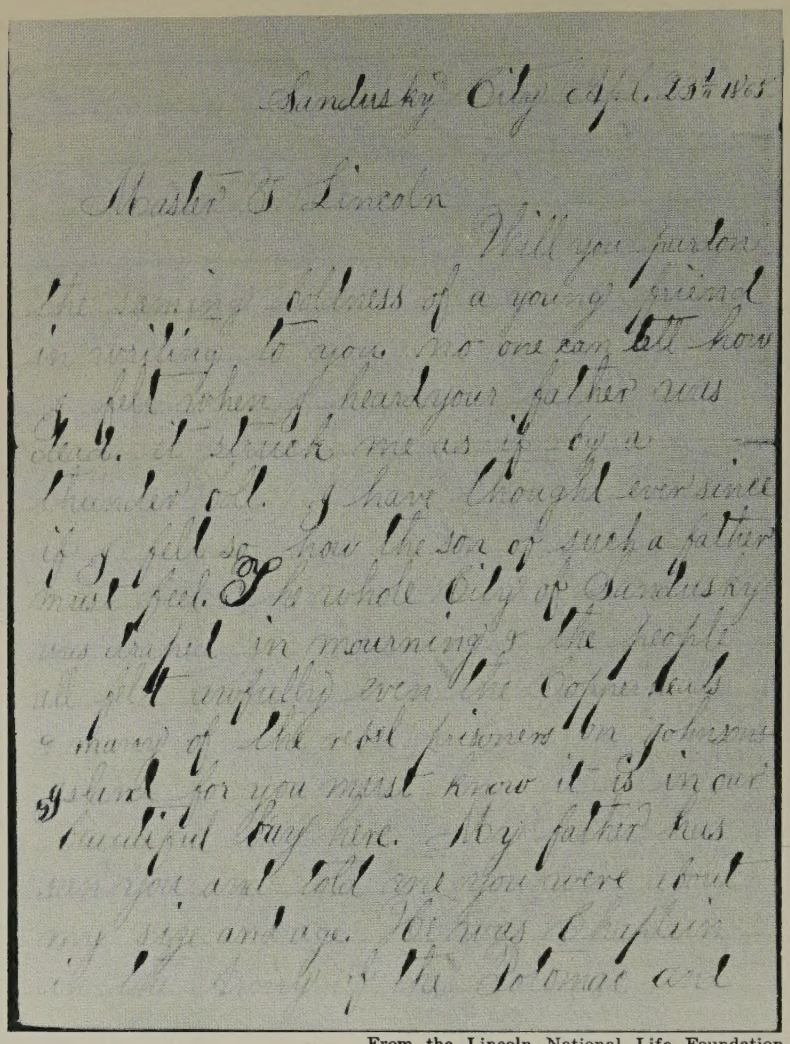
Another Foundation letter revealing sincere expressions of sentiment was written by Mrs. Lincoln to her sister, Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards of Springfield, Illinois.

The letter follows:

"Pau, France
"March 19th, 1877

"My Dear Sister

"I wrote you a letter a few days since, in receipt of the journal containing the

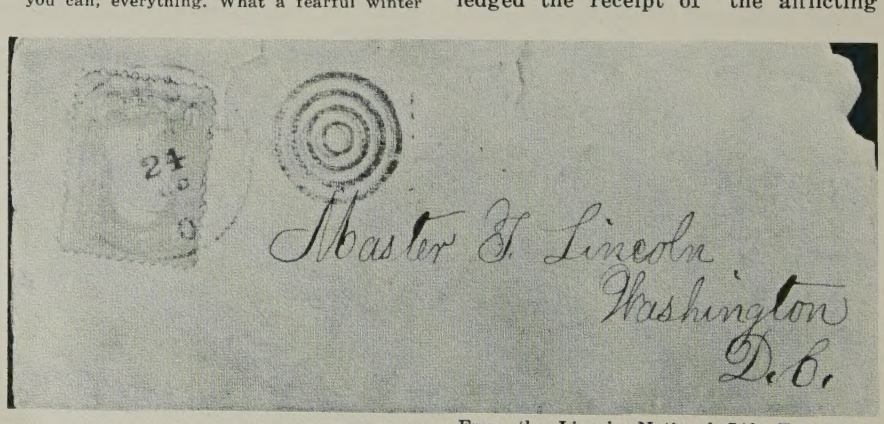


From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

afflicting intelligence of the death of dear sweet affectionate little Florence, whom I loved so well. The information saddened me greatly & rendered me quite ill. I have drank so deeply of the cup of sorrow, in my desolute bereavements, that I am always prepared to sympathise, with all those who suffer, but when it comes *so close* to us & when I remember that precocious, happy child, with its loving parents—what can I say? In grief words are a poor consolation—silence & agonizing fears are all that is left the sufferer. Immediately on the receipt of your most welcome, tender letter, with the enclosure of Dear Dear Florence's beautiful photograph, some weeks since, I wrote you a long letter & sent a loving kiss, to the sweet child—Do write me, when you can, everything. What a fearful winter Dear Sister—you have had——I have never received a line from Lewis Baker and I often feel that letters are sent. When I do not receive them. Yet, at this Hotel they are very attentive. There is a carelessness I fear at the P. O. here. The French are a superficial people, yet I live very much alone & do not identify myself with them—have a few friends & prefer to remain secluded. My "*Gethsemane*" is ever with me & God, can *alone* lighten the burden until I am reunited to my dearly beloved husband, and children. Write as soon as possible. Most lovingly

Your Sister
Mary Lincoln."

In this letter Mrs. Lincoln acknowledged the receipt of "the afflicting



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

The stamp on this envelope bears the cancellation date of April 24, (1865).

intelligence of the death of dear sweet affectionate little Florence." This child was the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards, the daughter of their son Charles who married Mary Hickox (February 18, 1868), the daughter of Virgil Hickox. Florence was their only child.

Mrs. Lincoln also alluded to Lewis Baker from whom "I have never received a line . . ." This young man (born in 1858) was Edward Lewis Baker, Jr., the son of Julia Edwards Baker. During Mrs. Lincoln's declining years, when she was mentally ill and estranged from her own son, Robert, her thoughts centered around Lewis, her beloved grandnephew. Apparently Lewis was negligent in writing to his great-aunt, and the absence of his letters caused Mrs. Lincoln to blame "The French . . . a superficial people" whom she claimed maintained a careless post office at Pau.

A recent acquisition by the Foundation is a letter written by Olin D. Wheeler to Tad Lincoln. This is a letter of sympathy from one little boy who had a father to another little boy who had lost his father. The identity of Olin D. Wheeler is revealed in the letter. He was the son of the Reverend A. Wheeler, of Sandusky City, Ohio, a chaplain with the Army of the Potomac.

This must have been a difficult letter for a thirteen year old boy to compose and if it came to Tad Lincoln's attention, which it probably did, it undoubtedly comforted the twelve year old lad.

"Sandusky City Apl. 23d 1865

"Master T. Lincoln

"Will you pardon the seeming boldness of a young friend in writing to you. no one can tell how I felt when I heard your father was dead. it struck me as if by a thunder bolt. I have thought ever since if I felt so how the son of such a father must feel. The whole City of Sandusky was draped in mourning & the people all felt awfully even the Copperheads & many of the rebel prisoners on Johnsons Island for you must know it is in our beautiful bay here. My father has seen you and told me you were about my size and age. He was Chaplain in the Army of the Potomac and I think saw you with your father reviewing the troops once. I am only 13 years old. I have seen in the papers something of how you felt and it made me wish to say something to you about your father. There never was a President father liked better than him our whole Family liked him even our little boy 3 years old woke up one morning with the lamentation that President Lincoln was dead. I know of no person but that did like him the rebels on the Island feel terrible and keep feeling worse. If your father did die before this war was over he lived to see the dawn of peace arising in the distance upon a nation whom he led through & saved from distruction. He will never be forgotten by the American people but will alwas live in their hearts as long as they live. George Washington the Father of his Country & Abraham Lincoln the Deliverer will always be the pride of the Nation. The people here regret so much he did not live longer to enjoy after the war the honors which the Nation would so gladly have bestowed upon him. My father has gone to City Point to stay six weeks for the Christian Commission. I hope you wont take this as an offence. I dare not ask you to answer this but if you should I would think it a very great favor. If you do direct to Olin D Wheeler Care Rev A Wheeler good bye

yours truly
Olin D. Wheeler"

LINCOLN BANK CHECKS

(Continued from November issue)

Feb. 1, 1860
No. (?) Springfield Marine & Fire Insurance Company $10.00
Payable to First Church
(See Pratt's "The Personal Finances of Abraham Lincoln" opposite page 94)

Feb. 22, 1860
No. (?) Springfield Marine & Fire Insurance Company $11.05
Payable to Mrs. S. Allen
Original check owned by King V. Hostick

July 16, 1860
No. (?) Springfield Marine & Fire Insurance Company $5.00
Payable to Second Portuguese Church

July 28, 1860.
No. (?) Springfield Marine & Fire Insurance Company $5.00
Payable to Mrs. Barbara Denkel (not written on printed check form)
Original check owned by Richard M. Lederer in 1945

Feb. 5, 1861
No. (?) Springfield Marine & Fire Insurance Company $149.94
Payable to (?)
Original check owned by the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Aug. 28, 1861
No. 41 Riggs & Co. $3.00
Payable to Mr. Johns (a sick man)
Original check owned by The Riggs National Bank of Washington, D. C.

March 10, 1862
No. 79 Riggs & Co. $5.00
Payable to "Tad" (when he is well enough to present)
Original check owned by William H. Townsend

March 11, 1862
No. 80 Riggs & Co. $5.00
Payable to William Johnson (colored)
Original check owned by the Illinois State Historical Library

April 4, 1862
No. 85. Riggs & Co. $1,002.19
Payable to John Hay

Aug. 11, 1863
No. 52 Riggs & Co. $5.00
Payable to Colored man with one leg

May 4, 1864
No. 87 Riggs & Co. $2.50
Payable to Franklin & Co.
Original check owned by William A. Heilprin

Jan. 6, 1865
No. 21 Riggs & Co. $725.00
Payable to Self

Feb. 18, 1865
Nov. 26 Riggs & Co. $761.00
Payable to Self
Original check owned by Richard N. Lederer in 1945

April 13, 1865
No. 2 The First National Bank $800.00
Payable to Self

In 1927 this original check was sold by Thomas F. Madigan, autograph dealer, to John Sherwin, chairman of the board of directors of the Union Trust Company of Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1960 Lincoln Isham gave the Library of Congress a collection of 29 bank checks which were drawn by his great-grandfather. As the dates will indicate, all the checks were drawn by Lincoln on the Springfield Marine & Fire Insurance Company. They follow:

Canedy & Johnson .....$15.70—January 15, 1859

Condell Stockdale & Co. .....$50.91—January 15, 1859

Joseph Perkins, Collector .....$1.47—February 8, 1859

P .A. Dorwin & Co. .....$2.16—February 16, 1859

C. Loch .....$10.00—February 16, 1859

Kingsley North & Co. .....$10.50—February 22, 1859

J. W. Fracketton, Treasurer .....$22.50—March 19, 1859

Woods & Henkle .....$6.00—March 21, 1859

J .G. Hull .....$28.64—March 28, 1859

Dr. P. Moran .....$5.00—April 1859

H. C. Myers .....$38.80—May 16, 1859

Joseph Vere .....$2.87—July 8, 1859

E. R. Wiley .....$3.70—July 8, 1859

I. B. Curran .....$88.70—July 29, 1859

Ruckel & Johns .....$92.66—August 5, 1859

G. W. Chatterton .....$24.00—August 6, 1859

W. P. McKinnie .....$7.67—September 3, 1859

W. Gerthousen .....$5.00—September 6, 1859

D. J. Boynton .....$1.75—September 7, 1859

W. P. McKinnie .....$8.38—November 26, 1859

Self for Bob .....$25.00—December 16, 1859

C. Loch .....$9.30—December 19, 1859

Martin Walters .....$5.00—December 26, 1859

J. B. Fosselman .....$1.25—December 29, 1859

Canedy & Johnson .....$5.90—January 12, 1860

Woods & Henkle .....$100.00—February 1, 1860

Self for Officer & Pusey .....$15.25—February 2, 1860

Isaac Sisson .....$10.00—April 30, 1860

Wife .....$5.00—August 6, 1860

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McMURTRY'S
SPEAKING ITINERARY

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 11—12, 1962.
Omaha, Neb., Jan. 15—17.
Sioux City, Iowa, Jan. 18—19.
Sioux Falls, S. D., Jan. 22—23.
Cheyenne, Wyo., Jan. 24—26.
Denver, Colo., Jan. 29—31.
Fort Wayne, Ind., Feb. 1—10.
(Engagements in cities of the midwest during this period not listed).
Portland, Ore., Feb. 12—13.
Seattle, Wash., Feb. 14—16.
Spokane, Wash., Feb. 19—21.
Helena, Mont., Feb. 22—23.
Billings, Mont., Feb. 26—27.
Salt Lake City, Utah, Feb. 28—March 2.

The persons who might be interested in learning of the schedule in detail in the various cities named above, may contact the general agency office of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.